Steel Rejects lying in Bhilai Steel Plant

1109. SHRI N. RAJANGAM: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a lot of steel rejects are lying in Bhilai Steel Plant for disposal;

(b) if so, the agency through which the rejects are being disposed of to private parties; and

(c) the number of private parties which approached the Steel Authority of India Limited during the last three months in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) Approximately 50,000 tonnes of steel rejects are lying for disposal at Bhilai Steel Plant.

(b) and (c) These rejects are generally disposed of through any one of the following methods:—

(i) Direct sales at fixed prices by the Plant Marketing Department.

(ii) Sales through auctions.

(iii) Sales through orders obtained by Metal Scrap Trading Corporation.

(iv) Sales through stockyards of the Central Marketing Organisation of SAIL.

During the last three months 178 private parties had approached the Marketing Department of Bhilai Steel Plant for purchase of this material. During this period 66 percent of rejects was sold through direct sales and 34 percent through auctions.

Modernisation of Sponge Iron Plants

1110. SHRI N. RAJANGAM: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) what steps were taken by Government to produce sponge iron in the steel belts especially in the South, during the last three years;

(b) what assistance have been given by the newly formed Development Council for Iron and Steel and the Steel Authority of India to modernise the sponge iron units in the country; and

(c) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to locate a sponge iron unit in Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) Sponge Iron Industry has been delicensed with effect from March, 1985 with a view to encourage setting up of more units. In the South (Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka & Tamil Nadu) about 50 units have already been registered for production of sponge iron.

(b) Indian Sponge Iron Industry has come into being only recently and is using modern technology and equipment. The question of modernisation does not, therefore, arise at present.

(c) No, Sir.

Issue of Ration Cards in Delhi

1111. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR PATTNAIK: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications received under Circle No. 43 of the Food and Civil Supply Department of Delhi Administration for issue of ration cards from the people of Mustafabad, Krawal Nagar, Brijpuri, Gokalpuri during 1984, 1985 and 1986 uptodate;

(b) the number of applications which have been cleared and number of ration cards issued so far; and

(c) the number of applications which are still pending together with reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) According to the